

C O N N E C T I O N

Your Source for Employee Information



Mobile Mammography appointments available in October-November

Methodist Health System's mobile mammography unit will be coming to several county building locations in the coming month.

Collin County provides employees, retirees, and their spouses with the opportunity to have an annual mammogram, but space is limited, so schedule your appointment soon. To qualify for a mammogram, you must be age 35 or older and have no current breast problems.

Employees covered under Collin County's medical insurance plan who receive a mammogram as part of their **wellness benefits** will have this service covered at 100 percent. Methodist Health System will also file your claim directly with *United Healthcare*. Services may also be filed with other insurance plans.

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Meet Accounts Payable

These are the hard-working ladies from the Auditor's Office Accounts Payable section, so you can put a face with the name and voice you're working with: (left-right) **Heather TREADWAY**, **Kelly LINDELL**, **Jennifer WHIFFEN**, **Kandis HALLAM**, **Lisa NUNLEY** and **Noel HUGHES**.

Wellness Benefit Program: cash *and* a discount?

Take charge of your health and get some cash in your pocket for 2014. Only a few months remain to take advantage of a \$200 lump-sum payment and premium discount in 2013 with the Wellness Benefit Program.

So who's eligible for what?

Full-time employees and spouses who are enrolled in one of the county's medical plans on or before Dec. 31, 2013, are eligible to participate in the \$200 lump-sum payment and premium discount.

Retirees and elected officials and their spouses who are enrolled in one

of the county's medical plans on or before Dec. 31, 2013, are eligible for the premium discount only; and,

Part-time employees and their spouses who are enrolled in one of the county's medical plans on or before Dec. 31, 2013, are eligible for the \$200 lump sum payment.

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Wellness Cont'd

Here's a list of the requirements for the wellness program. If you and your spouse are enrolled in county medical insurance, you must complete all of the items below:

- ◆ Annual Physical
- ◆ Well Woman/Man exam
- ◆ Cholesterol Screening
- ◆ Provide Height, Weight, BMI
- ◆ Health Assessment on www.myuhc.com

If the exams are performed by different doctors, just submit a form from each doctor indicating which exam was completed by that particular doctor.

To get the necessary forms for completion, go to the Human Resources intranet page in MYCC: **Departments & Sites > Human Resources > Human Resources Forms and Documents > Benefits > Wellness > 2013 Wellness Form.**

The form must be completed in order for you to be eligible for the lump sum, the premium discount or both, depending on your eligibility.

Return the completed form(s) by Dec. 31, 2013, to **Abby SPENCE** (Ext. 4602) or **Kim McPEAK** (Ext. 4687) in Human Resources.

Appointments



Judge Angela Tucker

State District Judge **Angela TUCKER** of the 199th District court was appointed in September to a six-year term to the Judicial Advisory Council by Texas Court of Criminal Appeals presiding Judge **Sharon KELLER**.

County Auditor Jeff May

Judge John ROACH, Jr. officially swore in **Jeff MAY** as County Auditor in September.



Mobile Mammography cont'd

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For those without insurance, a payment of \$288.05 will be due at the time of service in the form of cash, check, Visa or MasterCard.

To schedule an appointment, call Methodist Health Connection at 214-947-0026. For questions on benefits, contact **Abby SPENCE** (Ext. 4602) or **Kim McPEAK** (Ext. 4687) in Human Resources.

Here's the schedule for the October-November visits:

- ◆ **Thursday, Oct. 24, 2013, 9:30 a.m.**

-4 p.m.: Collin County Courthouse, 2100 Bloomdale Rd., McKinney, TX 75071;

- ◆ **Friday, Nov. 1, 2013, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.:** Collin County Courthouse, 2100 Bloomdale Rd., McKinney, TX 75071;

- ◆ **Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.:** Collin County Sub-Courthouse, 920 E. Park Blvd., Plano, TX 75074; and,

- ◆ **Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.:** Collin County Administration Building, 2300 Bloomdale Rd., McKinney, TX 75071.

Healthcare's Morris honored for 28 years of public health work

The Texas Association of Local Health Officials awarded its highest honor to **Patsy MORRIS** recently, recognizing her for exemplary performance by a local public health employee with the 2013 Janet Emerson Public Health Servant Award.

In her nomination by Healthcare Services, Patsy's dedication and commitment noted that, "over the last 28 years, Patsy has shown personal dedication to ensuring the safety, security, and confidentiality of the department, its assets, records, building, and reputation."

For Patsy, this has meant responding to calls at all hours in order to ensure that vaccines do not go to waste due to power outages or equipment malfunctions. CCHCS experienced an unexpected challenge in 2007 when their building flooded with several inches of water throughout offices and exam rooms. It was a race against time to salvage computers, equipment, and paper records.

Patsy, with her determined work ethic, "rallied the troops," and helped organize efforts to get the department up and running so that patient services were not interrupted.

"It is easy to see why many of our employees see our department as the 'Patsy Morris Health Department,' according to the award package.

Patsy's accomplishments include:

- ◆ Taking the lead in partnering with the Texas Department of State Health Services to not only establish the VFC program in Collin County, but to see it flourish and thrive. From the time it was put in place, our department has helped dozens of providers join the VFC program. In 2010, 2011, and again in 2012, the department's Immunization Program was audited by



the TDSHS and received a perfect audit score. This means out of the 88 areas that were reviewed, there were absolutely no discrepancies or areas of failing to meet state standards.

- ◆ Partnering with food banks, schools, and other non-profit organizations to provide immunizations in exchange for school supplies, diapers and baby wipes, and canned food items on a regular basis.
- ◆ Establishing a patient care fund that would help patients with transportation and other costs that would not typically be funded through other department resources.
- ◆ Increased funding for CCHCS by applying for and managing grants for our TB Clinic, STD Clinic, Komen Program, and Immunizations Clinic.

Patsy can be counted on to be the first one in the office, turning on the lights, as well as the first one to volunteer to help a patient in need. Through major and minor disasters alike, Patsy is the constant that reminds everyone how far we have come and the potential that we have yet to reach.

Substance abuse or just acting out?

Observations on ‘normal’ teen behavior

Collin County Substance Abuse Program receives numerous calls about a loved one's behaviors and the possibility that their behaviors may be influenced by illicit, illegal, or intoxicating substances. The majority of these calls are from parents or caregivers of a teenager whose attitude and behavior has drastically changed.

They describe behaviors like disrespect, anger, depression, secretive-ness and many more. The main question they want answered, "Is this normal teen behavior?"

Sure, teenagers can be moody, challenging, and seemingly secretive about their activities and interactions with others which can cause a parent or caregiver to wonder. These behaviors do not always signal a substance abuse issue but it is still a good question to ask.

Since every teen is unique in their special way it is difficult to determine normalcy in general terms. Those are just a few that may indicate a substance abuse issue. There can always be something else going on in their life that they haven't talked about that has caused changes in their behaviors like possible bullying, depression, or anxiety.

The general signs and symptoms of

possible substance use are as follows: defiance at home and/or at school, truancy, sudden change in friends, dropping/failing grades, secretive-ness, withdrawing their presence from the family, isolating, sudden changes in physical appearance, loss of interest in their usual activities, moodiness, and changes in their normal sleep patterns. These are a few examples that are cause to worry.

Obvious signs and symptoms of substance use are: legal issues due to substance use, finding drug paraphernalia, the presence of the smell of alcohol or something unusual on their person, finding empty containers of over the counter medications like *Coricidin* Cough and Cold or cough syrup, and obvious behaviors indicative of intoxication from alcohol or something else.

The best course of action is to seek out the answers if the teen isn't able to provide explanations for newly presented erratic behaviors. Ask the experts.

There are many resources available that provide great information about signs, symptoms and area services. Of course the obvious resource is the Collin County Substance Abuse Program! The world-wide web is a great resource for information. A couple of sites like SAMHSA.gov, drugabuse.gov, and drugfree.org provide great information.

Teachers, school counselors, and the Special Reserve Officers are another very helpful resource. These professionals have the opportunity to know

and observe these teens in their social environment. They would have a good perspective on the teen's primary social group and any significant changes in their friends.

If there is anything that can be conveyed to inquiring parents or caregivers it would be that there is no such thing as *experimentation* of drugs or alcohol that is *use* of drugs and/or alcohol. Any substance use with teens is a serious problem and should be addressed immediately.

Collin County schools are noted as some of the best in the State but they aren't immune to the presence of illicit, illegal, or intoxicating substances by some of their students. Best advice, if there is a "gut feeling" that there is a problem – there is a problem! Remain informed about the signs and symptoms and seek help as soon as possible.

-- **Grace J. RAULSTON**, LCDC

Collin County Substance Abuse





GOING-THE-EXTRA-MILE

Tiffany EAVES, Precinct 4 Constable's Office Administrative secretary, received a Going-the-Extra-Mile award by Constable **Joe WRIGHT** for going above and beyond her duties and for showing care, concern and compassion to a citizen who was having difficulty with having a mental health warrant issued and served.

The woman, whose husband was a retired peace officer who had a brain tumor and cancer, was becoming increasingly violent and was exhibiting bizarre and dangerous behavior towards her and the public. Even though the citizen lived yards inside of Denton County, she was directed to the Collin County Pct. 4 Constable's office by other agencies who were unable to help her.

Tiffany immediately got in touch with the Denton County Justice of the Peace to get the process started for a mental health warrant. She reassured this citizen by explaining the warrant process and that she would assist her every step of the way.

Because Constables can execute warrants and process in contiguous counties, and Denton County Constable had no one available, Tiffany worked with the Denton County Justice of the Peace the following morning to have the warrant delivered to Pct. 4. Once received, Collin County Pct. 4 deputies promptly executed the warrant and transported the retired officer to

the hospital with no further incident.

Tiffany's dedication and professional representation continuously exceeds the higher standards set for those at the Pct. 4 Constable's office. Her efforts are very much appreciated.



Plano Unit Supervisor **Anne SIBLEY** (above, right) received a Going-the-Extra-Mile Award from Juvenile Probation Deputy Director **Lynn HADNOT**.

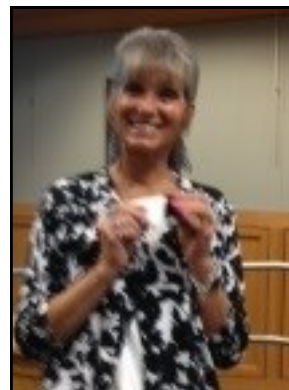
Juvenile Probation's Data Coordinator **Mitzi MURRAY** (below, right) received a GEM award from Unit Supervisor **Lisa POWELL**.



Both Anne and Mitzi received the honor for their dedication and hard work in the conversion from the Caseworker data management system to the Juvenile Case Management System in the Juvenile Services Department. Anne and Mitzi spent many hours on this conversion, testing and training all Probation Services staff members. The Juvenile Proba-

tion department appreciates their commitment.

ANNIVERSARIES



Kelly MAXWELL of the District Clerk's Plano Passports received her 5-year service pin.



Denise CONDRAN received her 5-year service pin from Judge **Lance BAXTER**.



Ane CASADY (above, left) received her 10-year service pin from Juvenile Services Director **Pam HUFFMAN**.

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Send-Off

County Judge Keith **SELF** (left) recognized Veteran Services Officer **Zach MIGURA** in September as Zach was about to ship out to Afghanistan for a tour of duty with his reserve unit.

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Jon KLEIN-HEKSEL, director of Public Works, received his 15-year service pin from County Administrator **Bill BILYEU**.



RETIREMENTS

Ken TOMAS received his retirement plaque at a reception on Aug. 27. He has worked as a juvenile probation officer since 1995, having served in Jasper and Orange Counties before spending the last 5 ½ years in Collin County. He plans to travel with his wife, Liz, and to garden in his free time.



Rendy BOX (left), pictured with Collin County Purchasing Agent **Michalyn RAINS**, was honored by the Purchasing Department for her retirement in late September. Rendy began her employment for Collin County in July 1994 as a Buyer. Thank you, Rendy, for your hard work, congratulations on your retirement, and we wish you the happiest of times.



20 Years of Service for Brownrigg, Gonzales

Congratulations to Sergeant **Jeff BROWNRIGG** and Detention Officer **Lana GONZALES**, who were recently recognized for 20 years of service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office. They each received a 20-Year Anniversary Plaque and congratulations from Sheriff Terry BOX during recent ceremonies.

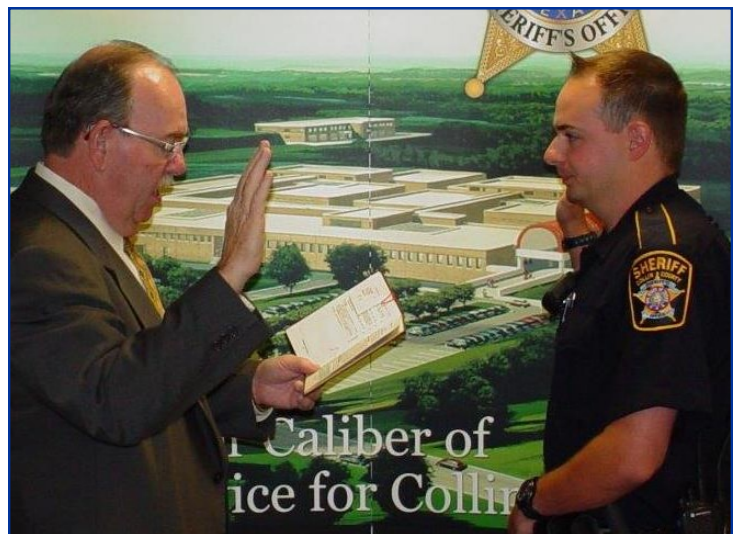


Promotions

Sheriff Box awarded **Jeremy HIGGINS** (above, right) his Sergeant's badge during a recent ceremony in the Sheriff's Office. Also present for the occasion was Jeremy's father, **Jerry HIGGINS**, of the Collin County Auditor's Office.

Swearing-In Ceremonies

Sheriff Box welcomed new Patrol Deputy **Danny STASIK** (below, right) to the Collin County Sheriff's Office.



PHOTOGRAPHY: Capture a moment in time with irreplaceable photographs, See my work on Facebook – Nancy Self Photography: Frame by frame – fulfilling my dream. Email or call for details . **Nancy SELF**, 972-754-2197; squeeze-penny@aol.com.



GUITAR FOR SALE: Yamaha, acoustic steel string guitar. Barely used and includes carrying case for \$100. 469-734-4406.

WANTED: Full or queen-size bed to purchase. Prefer headboard, footboard and mattress. Do not need dressers. Please contact **Mack LaFON**, 214-551-1780.

NOTARY: Let Brazeal Notary Services come to you for all your notary needs. Available evenings and weekends. Ten-percent discount on total purchase for county employees. Go to brazealnotaryservices.com or contact **Carrie BRAZEAL** at 469-271-2377.

AUTO REPAIR: ASE Certified Master Automobile Technicians available for your automotive needs. For fast and friendly service at a price that can't be beat, give us a call. No job to big or small. 50 years combined experience. All makes and models. Available Monday through Friday, 4- 8 p.m. , and Saturday and Sunday by appointment. **Ron MAY**, 903-647-3554, and **Jeff BRIDGES**, 903-821-0809.



FOR SALE: Metal Beach signs for outdoor or indoor decorating. All in excellent condition. Used for Beach-Themed Bedroom. 214/724-3857. \$30 for all 5. Also, 3 Texas A&M T-shirt dresses. Will send pictures if interested.



PUPPIES: AKC registered Labrador puppies at northridgelabradors@yahoo.com- or call **Brad HARRIS** at 214-673-4995.

Did you know ...

MyCollinCounty — or **MYCC** — can keep you up-to-date on events, offers, classes, deadlines, forms, policies and much more.

Desktop computer Internet browsers now post a default homepage that goes to *MyCollinCounty* to view notices, events, meetings, forms, documents, policies and, of course, databases such as *PeopleSoft*.

Though many of you may be able to reconfigure your browser's homepage to another site, just know that if you don't check MYCC regularly, you may miss out on important announcements. Here's why:

We've cut down drastically on sending out repeated notices of events and issues on countywide email notices by posting them on *MyCollinCounty's* main Calendar and Announcements sections instead.

But if you want to be notified of any of these events immediately, *MyCollinCounty* sections have an "Action" function that allows you to subscribe to new or modified announcements by email or by RSS feeds automatically. You don't have to miss a thing and it takes only a minute to subscribe (See the **How-To** on MyCC for details).

This means: Don't look for countywide emails. Look on MYCC. The front page calendar will have what's happening, and you subscribe to **Announcements** or the **Calendar** – or both.

Submitting to the *Connection*:

Please send your announcements, classified ads, news, kudos, anniversaries and such to the Connection at publicrelations@collincountytx.gov.

We'll post an announcement of deadlines for each issue on **MyCollinCounty's Calendar**—and, if you like, if you have something to sell, want to buy something in the Classified Ads online, send it in a separate email or tell us you want it in both editions (online and paper). We leave online classified ups for 30 days only and they automatically expire.

If you're sending photos, especially photos for smart phones and the like, remember to set your resolution high enough so that it will print out nicely. For example, your photo should be more than "100k" to print well. Larger is better, so don't worry about sending too large a photo. Thanks for your contributions.